(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have opposed this proposal;

(d) if so, the names of these States and what are their objections; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Central Government has recognized the pivotal role of State Governments in the Setting up and successful operation of SEZs. The Board of Approval (BOA) for SEZ does not consider any proposal unless recommended by State Governments. Section 50 of the SEZ Act, 2005 read with rule 5(5) of the SEZ Rule, 2006 envisage that the State Government may notify policies for developers and units and take suitable steps for enactment of any law granting exemption from State Taxes, levies and duties to the developer or the entrepreneur, delegating the powers conferred upon any persons or authority under any State Act to the Development Commissioner in relation to the developer or entrepreneur.

Some of States *viz.* Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc. have since enacted State SEZ Act and Rules.

Sharp decline in country's export

2163. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's exports registered a sharp decline in September this year, year-on-year basis;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for such sharp fall in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As per the quick estimates of DGCI&S, merchandise exports in September, 2009 was US$ 13.608 billion, registering a decline of 13.8% in comparison to the same period last year. Decline in India's merchandise exports since October, 2008 can be attributed significantly to shrinkage of demand in developed countries due to global economic slowdown, and the reduced international prices of commodities.

Training to small tea growers by Tea Board

2164. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to withdraw a Tea Board project introduced in 2004, for training to small tea growers;

(b) if so, the targets fixed and achievements so far under the scheme; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is supporting training programmes for the various stakeholders — managerial personnel in tea gardens, workers and small growers through the ongoing Human Resource Development Scheme of Tea Board. A special training on modern aspects of tea growing is organized for the small tea growers representing Self Help Groups (SHGs) who, in turn, on completion of the training, are expected to impart training to other members of the SHG. Besides meeting the training fee, the boarding and lodging cost for the training period is fully met by the Board. Against the Eleventh Plan financial target of Rs. 12.50 crore for the aforementioned training programmes, an expenditure of Rs. 1.40 crore has been incurred during the period from 1st April, 2007 to October, 2009 by providing training to 24,116 growers.

Growth in export earnings

2165. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has pointed that exports turn over this year would be $175 billion with give or take five to 10 billion;

(b) if so, the total exports earning so far during 2009 and to what extent there will be improvement in 2010; and

(c) whether Government is confident that exports will further improve and what steps are being taken to improve position further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government has set merchandise export target of US$ 200 billion by March, 2011. As per the quick estimates of DGCI&S, India's merchandise exports from April, 2009 to October, 2009 had been US$ 91.048 billion. While the impact of global recession is still continuing on our exports, quick estimates of DGCI&S indicate that there has been a progressive reduction in the rate of decline in export growth in dollar terms from May, 2009 to October, 2009. Government is committed to revive the growth in exports. Government is closely monitoring the trend in exports growth and the export potential and is reviewing the progress on continuous basis. Accordingly, need based appropriate measures are taken, keeping in view the financial implications.